

justice and liberty to the oppressed people everywhere, especially to the suffering people of native Cuba.

Dante was key in assuring and maintaining aid to Israel, our only democratic ally in the Middle East. He led the charge in condemning the Soviet Union's mistreatment of Jews. He also left his mark on domestic policy as well.

Congressman Fascell created the Everglades National Park; and without his vision, we would not have the River of Grass as a national treasure. Dante helped build my hometown of Miami to the thriving metropolis it is now. He worked to get South Florida the necessary Federal funds that helped our community grow.

All of us in South Florida cherish his friendship and want him to continue enjoying his children and his family for years to come.

#### EDUCATION IS THE SEED CORN OF SOCIETY

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the American public may wonder why we are focusing on education in the Democratic Party. In the Plains Indians in the central part of this country, there is a well-known bit of wisdom that says that they can tell a tribe that is going to die when they eat the seed corn, when you eat the corn that has to be saved for the spring and plant for the new crop.

Education is the seed corn of this society. Our determination to make this session end by an investment in education, both in the classrooms in terms of reducing class size and in rebuilding the buildings, is the seed corn of this society.

If we fail to do that, we will come out here, as we do every year, and pass a bill for H-1B visas so that we can go worldwide and gather the brains that we need to run this economy. That is wrong. That is not investing in the seed corn. We need to stay and do education.

#### FEDERALIZING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS BAD IDEA

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, is the President's school construction program a good idea or is it a gift to his urban fund-raising friends?

There are 15,600 school districts in America. Half the money is designated for 100 urban poor. There are urban poor, but there are rural poor, too. There are 1,000 rural poor school districts with no funding.

The other half of the money is available to additional urban poor districts. You can bet his urban fund-raising

friends will receive the majority of those funds, too, and 15,400 rural school districts across America will receive nothing.

Federalizing school construction will delay by several years the ability to construct the schools, will increase the cost, and only help the President's fund-raising friends.

#### SUPPORT EDUCATION

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, in reference to the gentleman that just spoke in regards to the classrooms, I know, in our State, we did an analysis, and almost \$200 million is going to be needed to increase the safety because of lead in the drinking water in school, because of the asbestos around the pipes, to increase the safety in environment for our children.

Because as we try to decrease the class size so that they can learn more, they can be more disciplined there, they have to have the environment so that they are not gaining any other outside hazards.

In the relationship to the young man who died from the hate crime in Wyoming, I think it points back to the fact that, by increasing discipline, by reducing class size, we are going to increase the likelihood where children will be raised differently, and they will not have these problems stemming from lack of supervision.

So by reducing the class size, we are reducing the violence. By reducing the class size, we are increasing the education children get and raising their aspirations so that, in my state, the fourth and eighth graders who are doing tops in the country can have the aspirations to go on to college and to reach the American dream.

That is why we support education, and that is why education is in support of programs.

#### ELECTION YEAR SPINNING

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to caution everybody watching this program, all of the voters in this country to brace yourself for the next couple 3 weeks before the election.

Look, I think the proudest moment of this Congress was probably last year when Republicans and Democrats and the President worked together to lower taxes for the first time since Ronald Reagan came in, to balance the budget for the first time in 31 years.

But what happens as we get close to an election is the Democrats try to prove that they think education is more important than Republicans. Not true. They try to spin it to make sure

or to hopefully make sure that they get more votes in the election.

Mr. Speaker, I just ask the American people to brace up, watch the spinning, be careful of what both sides of the aisle says, be careful of what the President says and does in these last few weeks before the election. Listen to these next speakers.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Members will be reminded that comments should not be made to the viewing audience. Comments should be made to the Speaker.

#### FOCUS ON EDUCATION

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I visit a lot of school districts in my district, rural, suburban and urban, and they all tell me the same thing. They need help with school construction. They need help with building new buildings. They need help with reducing class size.

The most recent one I visited made a decision some years ago to push the class size to the max in order to pay their bills. They do not like what they have done. They recognize, I am talking about both the teachers and the administrators, that there is a price the students pay. They need help. They want help.

They understand that, in order to reduce class size, they have to build new buildings. In order to reduce class size, they have to hire new teachers. They understand they will control the hiring. They will control the building. But they want help from their government, their Federal Government in doing this.

That is what this issue is about. That is why this week I hope we will focus on education, not to make partisan points, but to hopefully come out of here at the end of this week with a bill that helps the school districts in Arkansas accomplish what they want to with their school children.

#### EDUCATION IS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as the father of three young children, I am delighted, I am delighted that we are finally talking about an issue that is of concern to parents of young children all throughout this entire country.

Education is the most important issue for the future of this country. We have ignored it. We have ignored it for the last year. Now, finally, we get an opportunity to talk about it.